

## Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20

SAJ-01 SR-02 ORM-03 AF-10 NIC-01 DRC-01 /187 W

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P R 231526Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 645

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 9471

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR IS XF

SUBJ: VICTOR LOUIS ON FEDAYEEN AND ISRAELI-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF MOSCOW-DATELINED STORY  
BY VICTOR LOUIS IN YEDYOT AHARONOT TODAY.

2. BEGIN TEXT. PALESTINIAN LEADER ARAFAT IS NOW IN MOSCOW AT THE  
HEAD OF A TEN-MEMBER DELEGATION TO CONDUCT TALKS REGARDING THE  
POSSIBLE

PARTICIPATION OF PALESTINIANS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE  
CONFERENCE. MOSCOW IS NOT PLANNING A MEETING BETWEEN ARAFAT  
AND THE SOVIET LEADERS BECAUSE ARAFAT ARRIVED AS GUEST OF THE  
AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE AND NOT AT THE INVITATION OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OR THE PARTY. CERTAIN DIPLOMATS IN MOSCOW THINK THAT  
SINCE THE USSR IS INTERESTED IN SOLVING THE ME CRISIS, IT WILL NOT  
CAUSE ANY WORSENING IN THE SITUATION BY MAKING COMMITMENTS TO  
ARAFAT, SINCE SUCH COMMITMENTS MIGHT COMPLICATE  
THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS.

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3. IT SEEMS THAT ARAFAT'S VISIT CONSTITUTES AN ANSWER TO SPECUALTIONS THAT THE USSR IS IN THE PROCESS OF RESUMING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. NOW, FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY EGYPT AND US THAT AMBASSADORS WILL BE EXCHANGED, THE QUESTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE USSR IS BEING RAISED AGAIN. SO FAR, THE RMORS WERE NEITHER CONFIRMED NOR DENIED. BUT TODAY, GENERALLY RELIABLE SOURCES HAVE POINTED OUT--UNOFFICIALLY--THAT THERE IS NO BASIS FOR EXPECTATIONS THAT THE USSR WOULD TAKE SUCH A STEP. ONE OF THE REASONS IS THAT ISRAEL IS NOW INCREASINGLY ISOLATED IN AFRICA, AND THE USSR WANTS TO MAINTAIN ITS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE AFRICAN CONUNTRIES. BUT IF THE USSR DOES TAKE SUCHA STEP (AND RESUMES DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL), THE ARAB STATES WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO COMPLAIN, NOW THAT EGYPT AND THE US HAVE RESUMED RELATIONS.

4. AS ONE EAST EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT REMARKED IN MOSCOW: WHEN A BIG POWER LIKE THE US HAS DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE TWO SIDES IN THE ME, IT IS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD SOLVING THE PROBLEMS THERE. END TEXT.  
KEATING

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